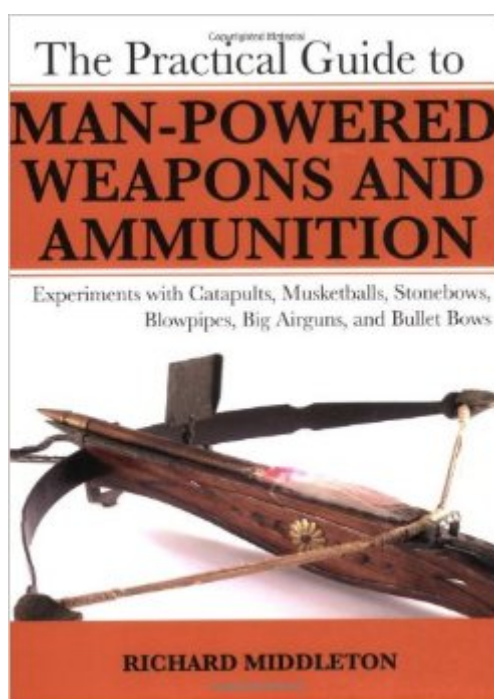


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# The Practical Guide To Man-Powered Weapons And Ammunition: Experiments With Catapults, Musketballs, Stonebows, Blowpipes, Big Airguns, And Bulletbows



## Synopsis

David slew Goliath with his slingshot: for millennia that was the norm, as men used a variety of non-explosive weapons to fire small stones and carefully rounded bullets of clay, glass, and even steel and lead. This unusual study explores in practical detail the many ways, old and new, in which man shot projectiles without recourse to gunpowder. They include the bow and arrow, a favorite for the last 10,000 years; pump-up air guns; blowpipes; catapults; and homemade lead musketballs. There's information on ammunition and velocity, as well as a lively personal narrative filled with humor and the spirit of experimentation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was actually written by Richard Middleton and was first published in England. Stackpole published the first American edition in 2006 under the title "The Practical Guide to Man-Powered Bullets". The book was recently reissued by Skyhorse Publishing. It's a very good book. The first review appears to have been written by the publisher, as all of his other reviews are of Skyhorse books. Despite this, it's really a great book, but the emphasis is on tension and gas weapons, not "musketballs". Great treatment of stone and pellet bows, slingshots, and homemade airguns.

I don't remember having so much fun reading a book as this one. While the author is much better at math than I ever hope to be, his line of thought is so similar to that of any boy who has played with these toys (so loved by every male child from the cradle to the grave), that you are drawn into a conspiracy with him to make it "shoot harder", "shoot farther", just better than the last one you

made! The underlying humor, is obvious to anyone who's done such experiments.

I own and shoot firearms of many different kinds and calibers. I also enjoy archery, bow and crossbow, blowguns, catapults (many of which I design and build myself) . I like to shoot different kinds of things. This book is EXACTLY for people like me, who find the shooting sports to be enjoyable and fun. The author is very knowledgeable, and it is quite evident that he finds the sport to be fun also. If you are a survivalist looking for an instructional, go elsewhere. If you are an enthusiast who wants more information presented in a somewhat jovial way, buy this book, you won't regret the purchase, believe me. An enjoyable, entertaining, and informative read. Posted from my Fire.

The book comprehensively studies every aspect of slingshot design, with particular emphasis on bands, which is where the performance is to be found. It is as scientifically rigorous as any book on the subject while being easy to understand, including many practical examples. The author's writing style is quirky and quaint, eminently readable and filled with humour and anecdotes that had me laughing aloud every few minutes. It's the kind of book that you'd want to keep going back to for reference data, new ideas and an emotional pick-me-up, rather than the kind you'd check out of a library in a big stack of similar books, only to be returned unread a fortnight later. Although I bought the book to learn about slingshots, it also covers bullet bows, bullet crossbows, and airguns in the same level of detail.

Very well-written - if the author does descend deep into the depths of basic physics at times. This is balanced by a light-hearted writing style which is simultaneously entertaining and educational. Richard Middleton is obviously one of those people who you wished you'd had as a teacher at school - many, many years ago...! This is one of those books that will be read once, not completely understood at the time, but put away in one's library until required for direct reference - i.e., when building one of the devices described within. When this occurs, a swift re-read will make everything crystal clear and the book will then become a permanent part of your reference resources. My only (minor), complaint is that it doesn't appear to be available in hardback format - though if dear Richard cares to contact me and contradict that opinion, I'd be more than happy to buy a more substantial version...!

For the inveterate tinkerer or those who who like to understand how things work on a practical level, this book is one of the best. It's thoroughly enjoyable reading and presents the the subject matter in

a down-to-earth, understandable level. Although it's salted with humor, it is also full of appropriate cautions and warnings about the dangers of various types of man made weapons. I highly recommend this book for anyone contemplating making a bow, cross bow, airgun, or similar type of weapon.

This is a great resource for understanding how human powered weapons work. While much of the information is dated it is still useful and entertaining reading. One example is the author's statement that rubber powered slingshots are limited to ~270 fps. The current documented record stands in excess of 500 fps.

Wow, this is one of the best books on my shelf. I love slingshots and I'm an avid spearo. This book explains the physics and mechanics of these devices. It's detailed and thorough. A great read if you build or use these machines.

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